

Wisconsin Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council

Retreat Summary and Recommendations for ECAC Consideration

From September 13, 2013

I. Assumptions/Givens for Moving Forward

- There will be an ECAC that will follow:
 - Executive Order
 - Membership required by Head Start; WI also includes other related areas for membership (Governor appoints, interested individuals can apply, the Council may advise)
- Staff team from departments will continue to support
- Costs to support identified ECAC role will be necessary to identify and secure

II. Related Comments

- ECAC structure is prescribed by existing executive order. Currently using National Head Start standards and guidance regulations.
- ARRA requirements no longer apply as ARRA funding no longer exists.
- Authority exists within the Executive Order
- Language is important and should include the comprehensive nature of the vision. EX: child development rather than child education.

An overall theme of the day was to ensure that ECAC work is clearly tied to the original system assessment conducted in 2010 as well as related to the Executive Order that specifies the role of the ECAC. Executive Order 269 specifies the roles as:

- Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment
- Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination
- Recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection
- Recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans
- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators
- Make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate
- Hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities
- Direct that the Council submits a statewide strategic report annually
- Meet periodically to review implementation of the recommendations in the report and any changes in State and local needs, in accordance with Public Law 110-134

III. ECAC Accomplishments

- Early Childhood work has been elevated
- A system assessment was conducted.
- Additional statewide scans have been conducted in the following areas : cross-sector professional development, higher education, family/community partnerships, and oral health.
- Project teams were developed using existing workgroups
- Cross -department communication and work have been better aligned
- Outreach to tribal nations has increased.
- Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge Grant funding was secured and supports key ECAC recommendations.

- ECAC work on data sharing has been incorporated into the EC-LDS and Race to the Top grant.
- A framework for early childhood outcomes and key indicators has been developed.
- Support has been provided for developing public/private partnerships and a public/private funding board (longstanding ECAC recommendations).

IV. Challenges Identified

A. Council

- How to take ECAC model to communities?
(top down vs. bottom up – mandate vs. join us) How would membership change to support this?
- How to define priorities within the Executive Order and the evolutionary interest with expanded traction.
- How does the Council provide for transparency?
- ECAC meeting logistics separate “members” and “public”
 - Public feels separate
 - Allows distinction when member input/vote is needed
 - Must follow “public meetings” rules and allows for public comments
- How is membership decided? (by position, not individual), How many members? Terms?
- How can ECAC be more inclusive or expand communication?
- Should project team Chair represent teams at the Council level?
- How can we get more input from the Tribal Nations
- How are decisions made?
- How do things get on the agenda?
- What is the process for connecting Steering Committee to the project teams and to the Council?

B. Steering Committee

- Roles and responsibilities are included in the ECAC Operating Principles. Currently maintains public-private commitment, 9 members by position.
- How is membership decided? Term length? Process for appointment? Steering Committee size limit? Process for replacing members?
- Is membership comprehensive? Are the right people at the table?
- Is Steering Committee the best name for the group? Ideas include: Coordinating Committee, Facilitating Committee, Collector?
- Does this change without ARRA funding?
- The working relationship between/among the project teams and the Steering Committee and Council is not clear. (Communication, decision making, membership, setting agendas, etc)

V. Priorities Identified on September 13, 2013

- Provide more clarity and revisit current structure.
- Provide more clarity about membership and processes for Steering Committee
- Consider a pre-natal to age 8 agenda/refocus on role specified in Executive Order to identify barriers to collaboration and coordination.
- Focus on getting the word out about importance of early care and education and building a system for improving outcomes for young children.

VI. Recommendation Matrix

Focus Area	Proposed Recommendation	Where/What to Fix
Structure: Council E.O. connection – <i>Identify barriers to coordination and collaboration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify existing Operating Principles; where necessary update Operating Principles. Develop a “barrier busting” cross sector team to identify policies, procedures and relate efforts that interfere with better coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify communication process, agenda development, how new members are appointed Establish December meeting as a time to present revised Operating Principles Consider if the ECAC should be doing more to identify and address barriers to collaboration
Structure: Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify existing Operating Principles; where necessary update Operating Principles. Consider adding one co-chair from each project team to Steering Committee or having quarterly meetings with steering committee and both co-chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at balance of public and private members on Steering Committee Clarify Department representation and staff roles
Structure: Project Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify existing Operating Principles; where necessary update Operating Principles. Recommend that EC-LDS Committee is no longer needed because the cross department governance structure now exists. Regular updates would continue Clarify evolution of home visiting into family and community team and connection to system assessment findings and ECAC recommendations. Recommend that public-private committee could be dissolved when Public-Private Board is implemented through RTTT-ELC. Develop more guidelines on when committees are formed and when they are dissolved Steering Committee – clarify who is on and why Continue to work with project teams to further integrate their work, e.g., model of obesity team and how their efforts coordinate with other ECAC subcommittees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all committees relate to original system assessment findings and role specified in Executive Order Clarify when a subcommittee get developed, what their scope is and when they “graduate”, e.g., EC-LDS
Council Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECAC consider if they want to making recommendations for additional ECAC members Continue efforts to define a communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about having more parents represented on the ECAC ; do we want to pursue a new recommendation with

Focus Area	Proposed Recommendation	Where/What to Fix
	structure with the Tribal communities including working better with existing Tribal committees and/or creating a new Tribal input group.	the GO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we increase tribal representation on the ECAC or in its work
<p>Prioritized focus area:</p> <p>Birth to 5 to prenatal to eight or birth to eight?</p> <p><i>EO Connection- not sure the connection here?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECAC should discuss feasibility of expanding scope; recommendation is to create a Birth to 8 frameworks. If yes, develop a framework to describe how public and private work contributes to the Birth to 8 continuum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should ECAC scope change from Birth to 5 to prenatal to eight or birth to eight?
<p>Prioritized Focus Area:</p> <p>Getting the word out about the importance of early care and education</p> <p><i>EO Connection</i></p> <p>Hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities</p> <p>Direct that after the Council submits a statewide strategic report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use ECAC annual report to help build awareness Work with the 16 local communities funded by ARRA and other communities with early childhood councils/collaborative to organize and host early childhood events/public input sessions Explore the feasibility of ECAC coordinating major events across the state recognizing the importance of early childhood, possibly during the Week of the Young Child (April 2014). Or, an annual meeting or public hearing to get input. Expand the public hearing process beyond the meeting comment period; develop additional public input opportunities such as the previous regional webinar, develop a input or “show and tell session” for the ECAC, or others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECAC can be more influential in promoting our work.

Retreat Participants September 13, 2013

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